Construction of Bhatni-Varanasi Broad Gauge Rail Line

921. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the construction of Bhatni-Varanasi broad gauge rail line started;

(b) the period by which the rail line is likely to be completed; and

(c) what is the estimated cost involved in the construction of the line and the amount spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) In April, 1980.

(b) Section from Bhatni to Mau is expected to be opened as Broad Gauge by March 1990 and balance by March 1991, subject to availability of resources in 1990-91.

(c) Estmated cost is Rs. 80.8 crores. The expenditure upto June, 1989 is Rs. 39.59 crores, approximately.

Rehabilitation of persons affected by Nhava Sheva Port Project

922. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the families/persons whose house sites/lands were acquired under the NHAVA SHEVA PORT TRUST have been provided alternate lands and also fully rehabilitated; and

(b) whether it is a fact that some additional land is still being developed for allotment to the persons affected by the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The families belonging to Sheva village and a hamlet called Koliwada, who were physically shifted were given alternate lands for residential purposes. Those whose agricultural lands were acquired were given only monetary compensation.

(b) The Jawaharlal Nehru Port is not developing any additional land for this purpose.

Offer of Pakistan President for talks with India to control Arms

923. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan President has offered talks with India to control arms; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of Guide-wall in the river Hoogly

924. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of 'Guide-wall' at Nayachar in the river Hoogly has since been stopped due to shortage of funds; and

(b) if so, what steps have since been taken to complete the construction of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.